ATLAS

MENACE

JULY

MENACE

No. 5

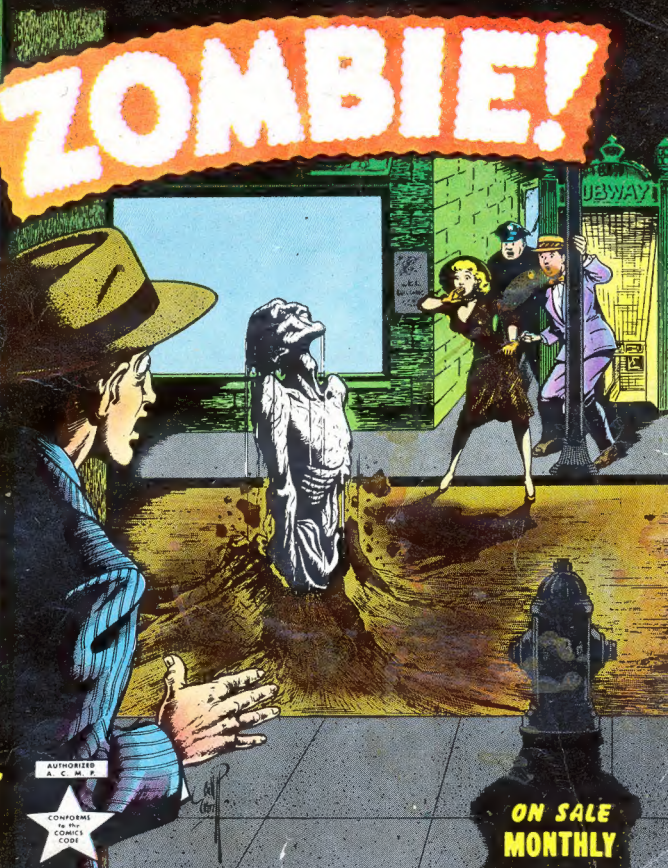
10¢

MORE TALES OF MADDENING MENACE

ZOMBIE!

"NIGHTMARE!"

"ROCKET SHIP!"



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AUTHORIZED A. C. M. P.

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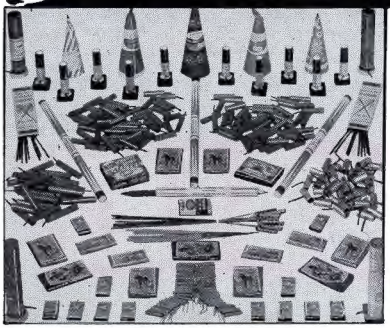

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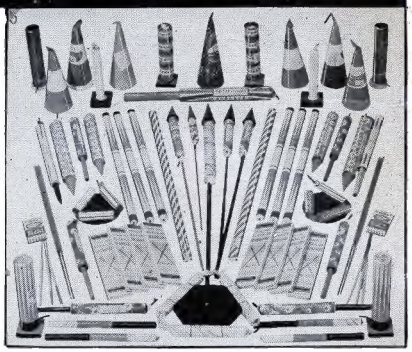

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MODESTY FORBIDS US TO SAY TOO MUCH ABOUT THIS YARN...YOU ALL KNOW THAT "MENACE" HAS BROUGHT YOU THE FINEST STORIES IN COMICS...WELL, YOU ARE NOW ABOUT TO READ A TALE WHICH IS SIMPLY, MERELY THE GREATEST!

ZOMBIE!

A TALE OF MADDENING MENACE!

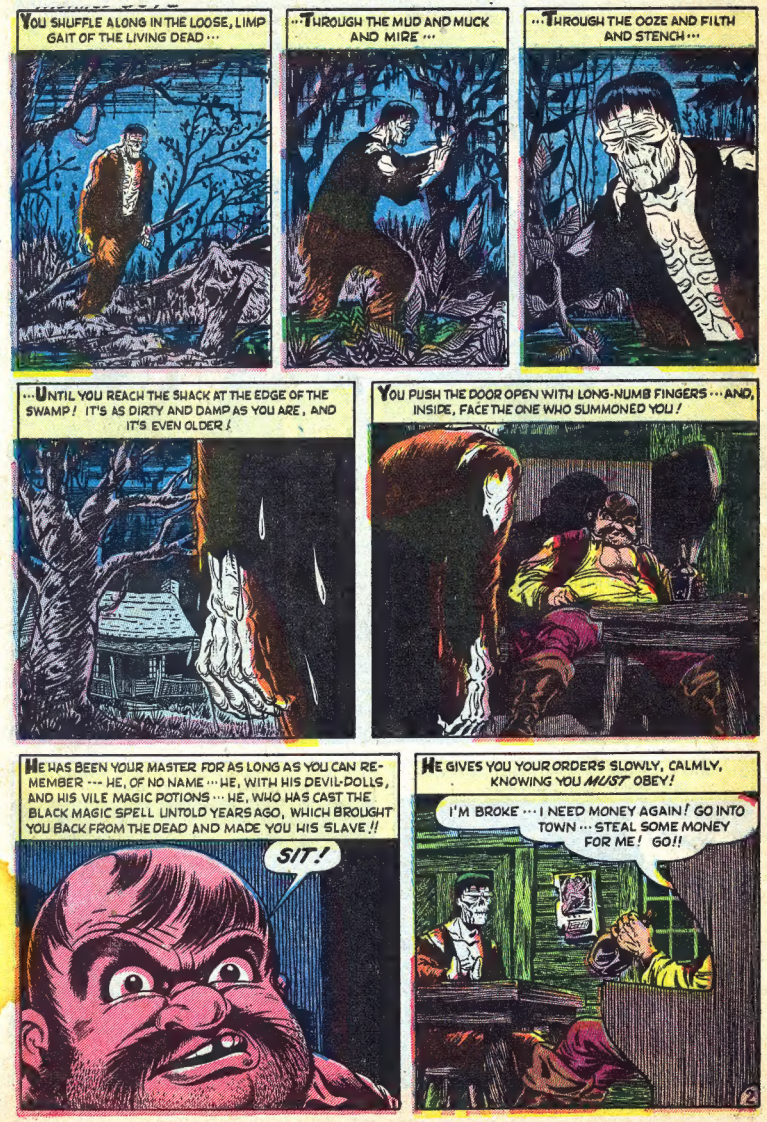
YOU STAND MOTIONLESS UNDER THE MOON IN THE SILENT SWAMP ····· YOU HAVEN'T MOVED FOR DAYS! YOUR MIND IS A BLANK, AND YOUR GLASSY EYES STARE AHEAD UNSEEINGLY! ···· YOU'RE A ZOMBIE!

by Stan Lee & Carl Burgos

SUDDENLY A FAMILIAR COMMAND REGISTERS IN YOUR DEAD BRAIN ··· JUST ONE WORD ···

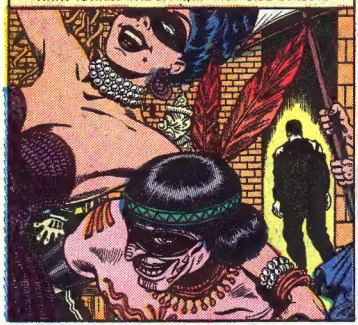
COME!

YOU TURN SLOWLY AND BEGIN TO TRUDGE TOWARD THE SOURCE OF THE UNSPOKEN COMMAND ···


YOU SHUFFLE ALONG IN THE LOOSE, LIMP GAIT OF THE LIVING DEAD ···
··THROUGH THE MUD AND MUCK AND MIRE ···
··THROUGH THE OOZE AND FILTH AND STENCH···
···UNTIL YOU REACH THE SHACK AT THE EDGE OF THE SWAMP! IT'S AS DIRTY AND DAMP AS YOU ARE, AND IT'S EVEN OLDER!
YOU PUSH THE DOOR OPEN WITH LONG-NUMB FINGERS ··· AND, INSIDE, FACE THE ONE WHO SUMMONED YOU!
HE HAS BEEN YOUR MASTER FOR AS LONG AS YOU CAN REMEMBER ··· HE, OF NO NAME ··· HE, WITH HIS DEVIL-DOLLS, AND HIS VILE MAGIC POTIONS ··· HE, WHO HAS CAST THE BLACK MAGIC SPELL UNTOLD YEARS AGO, WHICH BROUGHT YOU BACK FROM THE DEAD AND MADE YOU HIS SLAVE!!
SIT!
HE GIVES YOU YOUR ORDERS SLOWLY, CALMLY, KNOWING YOU MUST OBEY!
I'M BROKE ··· I NEED MONEY AGAIN! GO INTO TOWN ··· STEAL SOME MONEY FOR ME! GO!!
2

YOU HAVE NO WILL, NO MIND OF YOUR OWN ··· YOU RISE AND SHUFFLE OUT OF THE DIRTY HUT···
···AND ONCE AGAIN YOU MAKE YOUR WAY THROUGH THE FOUL SWAMP, TOWARD THE TOWN ···
THE STREETS ARE ABLAZE WITH LIGHT, FOR IT'S FIESTA TIME ··· AND THE PEOPLE ARE CELEBRATING THE MARDI GRAS!
EVERY IMAGINABLE COSTUME CAN BE SEEN IN THE GAY, NOISY CROWD ····
··· BUT THE ONE THAT DRAWS THE MOST ATTENTION ···
LOOK!!
···ISN'T A COSTUME AT ALL!···
HOW DID HE EVER DO IT?!?
···IT'S YOU!!!
HE'LL WIN FIRST PRIZE HANDS DOWN!
3

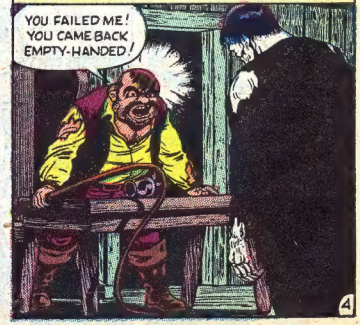
SILENTLY YOU EASE OUT OF THE CROWD, AND STEAL AWAY TOWARD THE DARK, NARROW SIDE-STREETS ···



YOU ARE NEITHER HAPPY NOR SORRY FOR WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO DO··· YOU HAVE NO FEELINGS AT ALL··· YOU ARE JUST A BLINDLY-OBEDIENT HOLLOW SHELL !!

THE POLICEMAN'S SHOTS ARE IN VAIN···A DEAD MAN CANNOT DIE ! BUT YOU MUSTN'T LET YOURSELF BE CAUGHT···THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME ···QUICKLY YOU MELT INTO THE CROWD !

AND SOMETIME LATER YOU FIND YOURSELF BACK IN THE HUT··· FACING A WRATHFUL FIGURE !·



THE LASH OF THE WHIP MEANS NOTHING TO YOU ···
···YOU ARE PAST ALL PAIN ···
··· BEYOND ALL FEELING!!!
FINALLY THE FLOGGING STOPS ···THE FAT ARM DROPS THE WHIP IN EXHAUSTION!!
I'M JUS' WASTIN' MY TIME! THE WHIP DON'T MEAN NOTHIN' TO YOU!!
I'VE A GOOD MIND T'GET RID O' YOU ONCE AN' FOR ALL!
ALL I GOTTA DO IS --- NO! I GOT ANOTHER IDEA! I GOT ANOTHER JOB FOR YOU T'DO!
THERE'S A PURTY LITTLE GAL I WANNA MARRY UP WITH ···BUT SHE WON'T HAVE ME! YOU GO TO THE LITTLE WHITE CABIN AT THE OTHER END OF THE MARSH, AN' YOU BRING HER TO ME!!!
ONCE MORE YOU LEAVE, SOME INNER SENSE TELLING YOU THAT IF YOU FAIL THIS MISSION YOU'LL BE TORTURED BY THE MAGIC OF THE DEVIL-DOLL ···A TORTURE LIKE NOTHING ON EARTH! YOU MUSN'T FAIL ···YOU MUST GET THE GIRL!!!
WHEN YOU GET HER HERE I'LL PRETEND I'M RESCUING HER FROM YOU ··· I'LL SAVE HER AN' TAKE HER BACK HOME! SHE'LL BE GRATEFUL TO ME ---AN' GRATITUDE AIN'T FAR FROM LOVE!

THE NIGHT HAS GROWN EVEN DARKER AS YOU STALK TOWARD THE WHITE CABIN AT THE EDGE OF THE SWAMP···

SUDDENLY ITS SHAPE LOOMS UP AHEAD OF YOU··· YOU CREEP UP TO THE FRONT DOOR AND TRY THE KNOB ··· IT'S LOCKED!

BUT LOCKED DOORS MEAN NOTHING TO YOU!

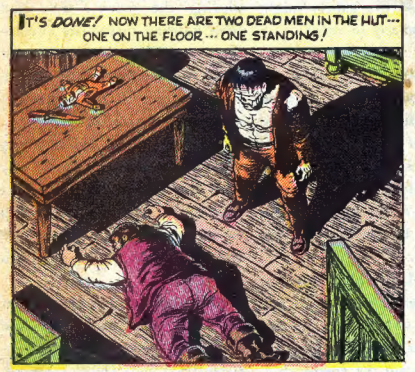
YOU'RE IN THE SHADOWS WHERE SHE CAN'T SEE YOU··· BUT *YOU* CAN SEE *HER!*

AND SUDDENLY SOMETHING INSIDE OF YOU SNAPS! YOU CAN'T MOVE FORWARD! YOU CAN'T CARRY OUT YOUR ORDERS!! ALL YOU CAN DO IS FLEE BACK INTO THE MURKY, EVIL NIGHT!!!

THE *FIRST* TIME YOU FAILED, YOU COULDN'T HELP YOURSELF...

BUT *THIS* TIME THERE'S NO EXCUSE! THIS TIME YOU'LL BE TORTURED FOR YOUR FAILURE!!

BUT BEFORE HE CAN REACH THE DEVIL-DOLL, YOUR HANDS SLIDE AROUND HIS THROAT!
ARGHHH! YOU CAN'T---YOU HAVE NO WILL OF YOUR OWN! I'M YOUR MASTER!! YOU--- ARGHHHHHH!!!



YOUR MIND IS A BLANK, AND YOUR GLASSY EYES STARE UNSEEINGLY INTO THE NIGHT--- BUT YOU ARE FREE NOW--- FREE TO RETURN TO THE EVERLASTING PEACE OF THE GRAVE!
7

---IT'S NEVER AS STRONG AS THE POWER OF LOVE! HOW COULD HE POSSIBLY HAVE EXPECTED YOU TO KIDNAP THE GIRL WHO HAD ONCE BEEN YOUR VERY OWN DAUGHTER?!!!
THE END

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

MIND OVER MATTER

LON DERMOT was jetting along in his single-seater, happily thinking of his next leave back on Earth, when the alarm went off.

He switched to manual control and turned off the automatics. Then he had a look around with the scanner. No, this far in empty space there was no reason to get an alarm signal. He was still light-years from the starаround which the Earth space fleet was based and there was nothing like a large planet or even moon to give him such a signal.

Unless it was one of the enemy's space ships!

The only thing the *Shpee-ah* had that was large enough to make his alarm system sound off like that was a super-dreadnought, a space warship that was almost as big as a small planetoid. And they wouldn't have anything as valuable as that in this particular stretch of interstellar space without lots and lots of smaller craft to protect it.

He'd have noticed the smaller craft on his scanner a long time ago. The *Shpee-ah* super-dreadnoughts, though, were equipped with the latest heavy invisibility machinery. He wouldn't see them until they were quite close.

But who would ever send a warship like that to chase down a tiny single-seater? These days, with the war between mankind and the snake-like *Shpee-ah* having reached the point where it could end only with the extermination of one side or the other, everyone was watching their weapons very carefully. Neither cared to risk an important space ship when the last great battle that would decide the future of the galaxy might break out at any moment.

Still . . .

On impulse, Lon pressed the deflection button that changed his course slightly. Just in time!

Ahead of him in the void there materialized the immense bulk of a *Shpee-ah* super-dreadnought, all of its tractor beams flaring out to cut him off and pull him in.

Cursing, Lon jabbed down at the deflection button again and threw the switch that poured more power into his jets. He couldn't outrun the enemy ship, but he could out-maneuver her in his tiny craft.

Just barely, his little ship cleared the edge of the furthest tractor beam which could suck him in like a magnet once it touched the single-seater. The beam swung after him, but he dodged back on his own trail and got away from it easily.

He turned the scanner back for a look at the huge ship. This time he gasped. For it was the flagship of the *Shpee-ah* navy that was pursuing him!

Why?

The *Shpee-ah* were horrible and evil creatures that looked and even acted like snakes on Earth, but they were very logical. They never did anything stupid.

Ever since mankind had run across them in the course of exploring the galaxy, they had been fighting to destroy humanity. The *Shpee-ah* could not stand to have more than one intelligent race in the same universe with themselves.

No, they never did anything without a reason. Then why send the flagship of thier fleet after one tiny little scout ship to capture a single young ensign who was returning from leave?

As he steered and jetted, sent his little ship backwards and forwards, the questions tore insistently at Lon Dermot's mind. What in space was so valuable about him? What did he know?

And then, suddenly, he had it. He knew the location of Earth's space fleet. It was super-secret, but since he was returning from a leave all by himself it had been given to him.

Somehow, the enemy had found out about him. And they were therefore pursuing him for only one reason: to get the location of the fleet out of him. Evidently they were ready to

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT STORY...

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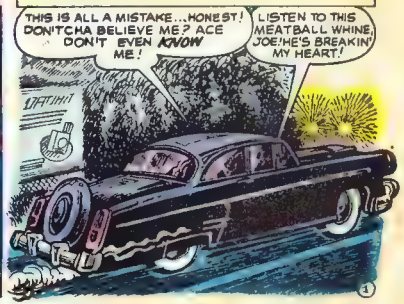
WE PREDICT "ZOMBIE" WILL BECOME A MASTERPIECE OF COMIC ART AND SCRIPT! IT'LL RANK ALONGSIDE OF YOUR OLD FAVORITE "THE MEN WITH TWO HEADS"! NOW HERE'S A LITTLE GEM WHICH IS STRICTLY TRUE-TO-LIFE...OR SHOULD WE SAY, "TRUE-TO-DEATH"?

CRACK-DOWN!

OKAY, MOUSE... START WALKING!
Y-YOU'RE ACE'S BOYS! WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME? I AIN'T DONE NUTHIN'!
CAN THE CHATTER... GET IN THE CAR!
A TALE OF MADDENING MENACE!
YOUR NAME IS MOUSE COOLEY, AND YOU'RE SCARED STIFF! ANYBODY WOULD BE SCARED STIFF IF TWO OF HARROW'S TORPEDOES POPPED OUT OF THE SHADOWS AND STUCK A COUPLE OF HEATERS IN HIS RIBS!
Stan Lee & Joe Maneely
C-499

YOU'VE BEEN A CHEAP CROOK ALL YOUR LIFE, MOUSE... BIG SHOT GANG-BOSSES LIKE ACE HARROW NEVER BOTHERED WITH SMALL FRY LIKE YOU BEFORE! YOUR TEETH ARE CHATTERING IN TERROR AS THE CAR DRIVES OFF!

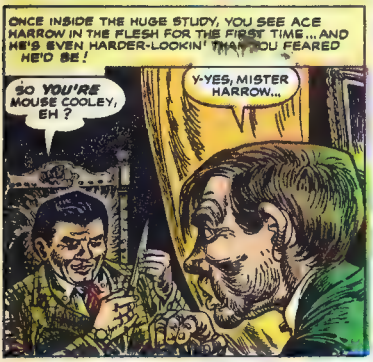
YOU COULD'VE SAVED YOUR BREATH! YOU KNOW WHERE THEY'RE TAKING YOU..TO ACE'S HIDE-OUT ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN! MOST GUYS WHO GET DRAGGED THERE, NEVER COME BACK... ALIVE!

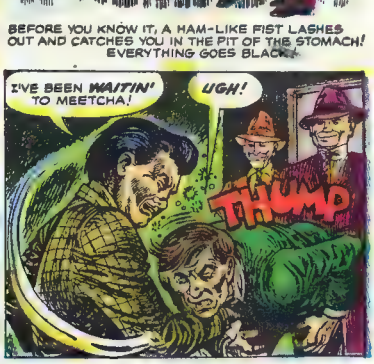

THIS IS ALL A MISTAKE...HONEST! DON'TCHA BELIEVE ME? ACE DON'T EVEN KNOW ME!
LISTEN TO THIS MEATBALL WHINE, JOE! HE'S BREAKIN' MY HEART!
VAROOM!
1

FINALLY, THE CAR STOPS IN FRONT OF THE HEAVILY GUARDED STONE HOUSE...
OKAY, DEAD-BEAT... OUT!!

YOU'RE HALF PUSHED, AND HALF DRAGGED UP THE ONE FLIGHT OF STAIRS...
KEEP WALKIN' OR DO YA WANNA BE CARRIED UP?!

AND FINALLY YOU'RE OUTSIDE OF ACE'S DOOR! YOUR HEART IS IN YOUR THROAT AS HIS RAUCOUS VOICE SNAPS OUT...
HAVE YOU GOT 'IM, BOYS? BRING 'IM IN!
YOU HEARD THE BOSS, CRUMB! MOVE!

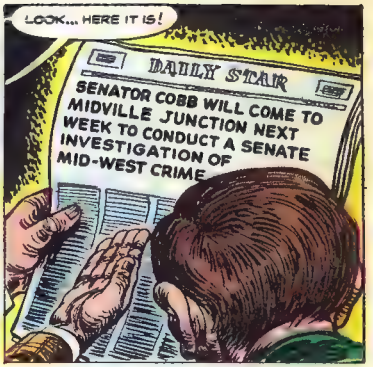

ONCE INSIDE THE HUGE STUDY, YOU SEE ACE HARROW IN THE FLESH FOR THE FIRST TIME... AND HE'S EVEN HARDER-LOOKIN' THAN YOU FEARED HE'D BE!
SO YOU'RE MOUSE COOLEY, EH?
Y-YES, MISTER HARROW...


BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, A HAM-LIKE FIST LASHES OUT AND CATCHES YOU IN THE PIT OF THE STOMACH! EVERYTHING GOES BLACK...
I'VE BEEN WAITIN' TO MEETCHA!
UGH!
THUMP

WHEN YOU COME TO, YOU'RE STILL ON THE FLOOR, LOOKING UP AT THE HATE-FILLED FACE OF ACE HARROW!
D-DON'T HIT ME AGAIN... PLEASE!
HIT YOU? I OUGHTTA LET MY BOYS HAVE TARGET PRACTICE ON YOU!
YOU'D MAKE A GREAT TARGET!

WHAT'S WRONG, MISTER HARROW? WHAT HAVE I...? ULP!
YOU MISERABLE, LITTLE PUNK, YOU'RE TRYIN' TO MAKE THINGS TOUGH FOR ALL OF US!! MY BOYS CAUGHT YOU CASING A JOB FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS!

BUT IT WAS MY OWN JOB... I WASN'T GONNA CUT IN ON ANYBODY ELSE'S TERRITORY!
OHH!
WHO CARES ABOUT YOU CUTTING IN? DON'T YOU EVER READ THE PAPER... DIDN'T YOU SEE THE FRONT PAGE STORY LAST WEEK?


LOOK... HERE IT IS!
DAILY STAR
SENATOR COBB WILL COME TO MIDVILLE JUNCTION NEXT WEEK TO CONDUCT A SENATE INVESTIGATION OF MID-WEST CRIME

I PASSED THE WORD DOWN THE LINE THAT I DIDN'T WANT NO CRIMES COMMITTED UNTIL THE SENATOR PACKED UP AND LEFT! I DON'T WANT NO SENATORS SNOOPIN' AROUND THIS TOWN FOR TOO LONG!
BUT ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS ROLL A RICH LUSH WHO WAS COMIN' OUT OF THE THEATRE!

NOW GET ME, MOUSE... AND GET ME STRAIGHT! IF YOU, OR ANY OTHER "TEN FOR A DIME" CHEAP CROOKS TRY TO PULL ONE JOB IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, YOU'RE FINISHED!
I U-UNDERSTAND!

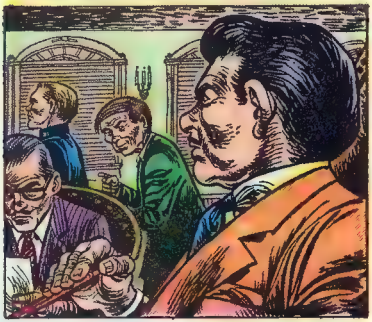
NOW GET OUT!

YOU FEEL LIKE CELEBRATIN' 'CAUSE YOU'RE STILL ALIVE! YOUR HANDS AND FEET ARE STILL SHAKING! YOU HEAD FOR THE NEAREST BAR!

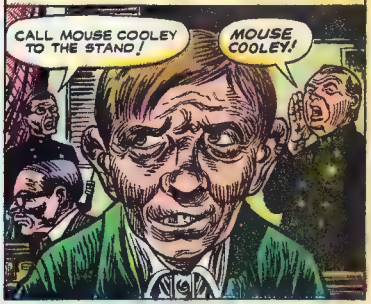
YOU ORDER YOUR DRINK WITH THE FRENZIED TONES OF A DROWNING MAN SHOUTING FOR HELP!
GIMME A DOUBLE!
GOTCHA!

AS YOU'RE GULPING YOUR DRINK YOU SEE AN EASY PUSH-OVER SITTING BY HIMSELF AT A REAR TABLE...
YOU REMEMBER ACE'S WARNING... BUT THIS CHANCE IS TOO GOOD TO MISS!
HE LOOKS AS IF HE'S LOADED! AND HE'S THE TYPE WHO'D HAND IT ALL OVER WITHOUT A STRUGGLE!
YOU WAIT TILL HE GETS UP TO LEAVE... THEN YOU FOLLOW HIM OUT...
'SCUSE ME, MAC...
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
YEAH... I SAID HAND OVER YER DOUGH BEFORE I BLOW YER BRAINS OUT!
DON'T SHOOT... I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU!
THANKS, SUCKER! NOW SWEET DREAMS... IT ONLY HURTS A MINUTE!
YOU COUNT THE MONEY IN YOUR ROOM... THIRTY-THREE DOLLARS! TOO BAD! YOU THOUGHT THE GUY WAS CARRYING MORE! BUT, IT AIN'T HAY... AND ANYWAY, ACE CAN'T EVER FIND OUT THAT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DID THE JOB!
FINALLY, THE BIG SENATE INVESTIGATION OF CRIME BEGINS! EVERY KNOWN HOOD, FROM ACE HARROW DOWN TO YOURSELF GETS A SUMMONS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY! BUT YOU'RE NOT WORRIED! NOBODY'S GOT ANYTHING ON YOU!
ROOM THREE... SECOND FLOOR!
NOTES

YOU NOD TO ACE BUT HE LOOKS RIGHT THRU YOU! YOU KNOW THAT HE'S TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHO PULLED YOUR CAPER A FEW NIGHTS AGO!



IT'S A GOOD THING HE CAN'T EVER KNOW IT WAS *YOU!* BECAUSE IF HE EVER FOUND OUT YOU VIOLATED HIS UNDERWORLD EDICT, YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T LIVE THIS DAY OUT!

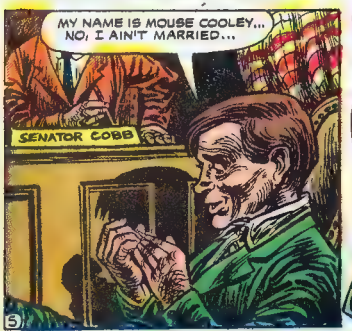


YOU SAUNTER NONCHALANTLY DOWN THE AISLE... THIS'LL PROBABLY BE *FUN!*

YOU KNOW YOUR QUESTIONING WILL BE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE'S! A FEW ROUTINE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, AND YOU'LL BE THRU!

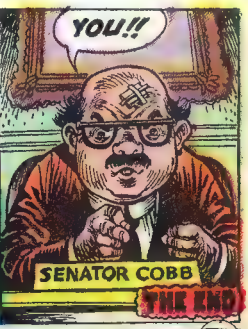
AS YOU TAKE THE OATH, YOU LOOK AT ACE AGAIN! YOU REALIZE HE'D KILL YOU WITHOUT A SECOND'S HESITATION IF HE KNEW *YOU* WERE THE ONE WHO COMMITTED THE CRIME WHICH MADE THE COMMITTEE DECIDE TO STAY IN YOUR TOWN!

AND THEN THE QUESTIONING BEGINS... SIMPLE ROUTINE QUESTIONS AT FIRST...



UNTIL...

OH WELL... CHEER UP, MOUSE... NOBODY LIVES FOREVER!



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COMMEMORATES centenary of first stamps issued by U. S. Pictures Washington and Franklin. Color, blue

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FREEDOM—Pictures Statue of Liberty and Jos. Pulitzer, famous exponent of freedom and press. Color, purple.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY—Pictures famous author of our national anthem, *Star Spangled Banner*. Color, red.

CIVIL WAR—Adm. Farragut and his foster-father, Comm. Porter, led opposing forces. Color, purple.

OLD IRONSIDES—Stamp commemorates 150th anniversary of launching of Frigate Constitution. Color, green.

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...CONTINUED

pull a surprise attack.

They had ways of getting the information out of him, they figured, once they had captured him.

At that, Lon made up his mind that if he couldn't get away, he would not be taken alive.

And just as he had decided that, something seemed to hit his mind with the power of an atomic explosion, and he blanked out.

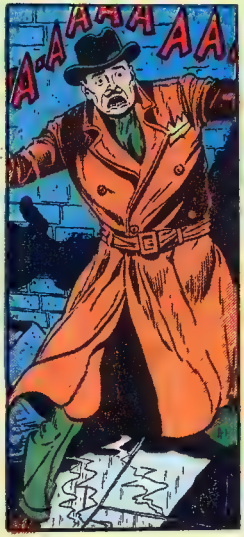
When he came to, he was in a long, narrow bed with his arms strapped to his sides. An incredibly ugly *Shpee-ah* sat near the bed. Lon realized with a thrill of fear that it was the enemy commander-in-chief. His head felt very heavy.

Words seemed to form in his mind, words from the individual beside him. And that was how the *Shpee-ah* explained to Lon Dermot what they intended to do.

They had a new weapon, a mind-blaster. That was how they had knocked him out at the controls of his own ship. It was like a ray or any other weapon, except that it hit the mind. At low power, the way they had used it on him, it knocked thinking creatures unconscious; at high power, it literally destroyed the mind of whatever animal it encountered!

With this weapon, they were ready to attack Earth's space fleet and destroy it. All they need now was the location. This would mean the end of humanity. The *Shpee-ah* would show no mercy.

But they would give him a chance for life, of a sort. They would adjust the machine at very low power, so that everything in his mind could flow into the mind of the commander-in-chief. After the *Shpee-ah* had learned all they could from him about the Earth fleet, they would give him back his mind. If he refused, they would turn the machine on to high power and blast his mind to bits.



Lon knew he'd be doomed in either case. Even if he did what they wanted, the commander would still keep absolute control of his mind so that he would be no more than a brainless slave of the *Shpee-ah*. They never kept bargains.

They began probing at his mind. The commander's thoughts began to form inside his brain as the connection was established.

"Where is the Earth fleet? Resist in any way and you will be instantly mind-blasted. Where is the Earth fleet? Resist in any way—"

Lon set himself to answer the commander's questions as the two minds made contact . . .

Five days later, the grand admiral of the Earth fleet came on board the *Shpee-ah* ship and warmly shook Lon's hand as he pinned a medal on him.

"Imagine getting enough control over the *Shpee-ah* commander-in-chief so that he meekly jetted his flag ship to our fleet and surrendered it! And turned over all his weapons! I understand all about the mind-blaster they used on you, Dermot, but how in space did you manage to save yourself?" the admiral asked.

"Well, sir, when his mind touched mine and asked the question, I didn't resist. I answered him. The answer drove his very orderly mind into insanity, and I was able to control him from that moment on without his crew's knowledge."

"What was the answer your mind gave?"

Lon Dermot smiled. "My answer was in a kind of thing that the *Shpee-ah* have no equivalent for or understanding of. Pure nonsense. *'Twas brillig and the slithy toves,'* I answered him. It comes from *Alice in Wonderland!"*

THE END 9687

Hi there, Pal! Win Some of these 100 Silver Anniversary Prizes!

I just won **$100.** and this 15" tall Silver Trophy
I just won this **$1,000,000** Body and a Gold Medal!

You Can Win All These just as I did in **10** MINUTES OF FUN A DAY!

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Which of these **2 ME'S is YOU ?** that 125 lb.—6 ft. CHICKEN CHESTED **WEAKLING** BELOW WAS ME A FEW SHORT WEEKS AGO

NOW

Yes! You still can win $100 and other 25th Anniversary Prizes, if you MAIL coupon below NOW. Your success can soon be like mine. A few weeks ago I was a skinny weakling like you. I had no guts to fight for my rights. TODAY everyone admires my champ movie-star build. My **mighty** ARMS. My **heroic** CHEST. My **wide manly** SHOULDERS. My POPULARITY with boys. The way GIRLS go for me—once so girl-shy. My new prowess in SPORTS. My new quickness in STUDIES. My double-energy at work.

NO! friend you don't have to be **SKINNY** any more. Just mail **NOW** the **FREE** coupon below as I did. Soon **YOU** can add **7** inches to your **CHEST** **3½** inches to EACH **ARM** and the rest in proportion as I did.

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FREE PHOTO BOOK NOW to Achieve Mergers of Blood, Muscles of Iron

How to BECOME A MIGHTY HE-MAN

There's that skinny scarecrow JOHN. Let's pass him by!

John Sill before

JOHN SILL was a 125 lb. 6 ft. WEAKLING LOOK at him NOW. A MOVIE-STAR HE-MAN from Head to Toe as **YOU** can be **soon!**

Come On, PAL NOW YOU give me **10** PLEASANT MINUTES A DAY IN YOUR OWN HOME and I'll give **YOU**

A NEW HE-MAN BODY for your OLD SKELETON FRAME
says George F. Jowett World's Greatest Builder of HE-MEN

GEORGE F. JOWETT "Champion of Champions" 4 times Winner Perfect Man Contest

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are, if you're a teen-ager, in your 20's or 30's or over; if you're short or tall, or what work you do. All I want is JUST 10 EXCITING MINUTES in your home to MAKE YOU OVER by the SAME METHOD I turned myself from a wreck to a Champion of Champions

YES! You'll see INCH upon INCH of MIGHTY MUSCLE added to YOUR ARMS. Your CHEST deepened. Your BACK AND SHOULDERS broadened From head to heels, you'll become an ALL-Around, ALL-American HE-MAN WINNER—or my Training won't cost you one solitary cent

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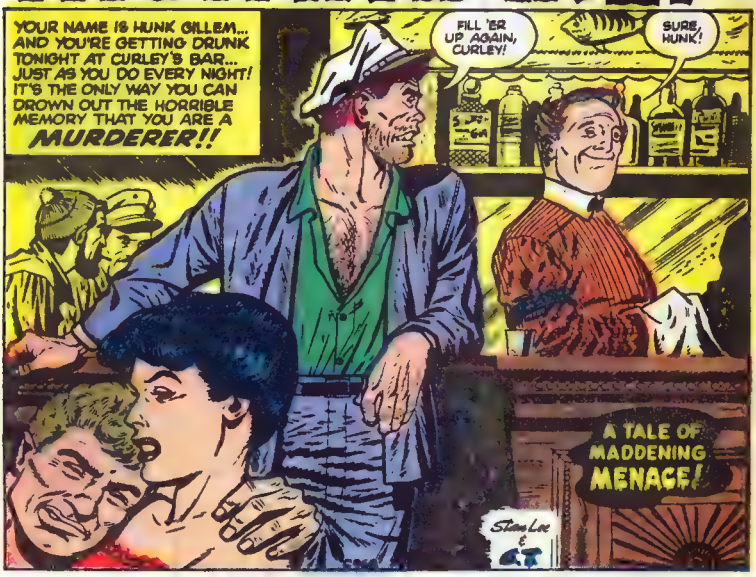
SOMETIMES YOU READ A STORY WHICH STARTS OFF TAME... BUT IT BEGINS TO PICK UP STEAM, AND BEFORE YOU EXPECT IT, IT SLAMS YOU IN THE SOLAR PLEXUS WITH THE IMPACT OF A NIGHTMARE! THAT'S THE WAY THIS YARN WILL AFFECT YOU! AND, BY SHEER COINCIDENCE, THE TITLE IS...

NIGHTMARE!


YOUR NAME IS HUNK GILLEM... AND YOU'RE GETTING DRUNK TONIGHT AT CURLEY'S BAR... JUST AS YOU DO EVERY NIGHT! IT'S THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN DROWN OUT THE HORRIBLE MEMORY THAT YOU ARE A MURDERER!!
FILL 'ER UP AGAIN, CURLEY!
SURE, HUNK!
A TALE OF MADDENING MENACE!
Stan Lee
&
CT

YOU TAKE THE GLASS BACK TO YOUR TABLE WHERE YOU CAN DRINK IT IN SOLITUDE... AS THE SLOW, DEADENING SENSATION OF DRUNKENNESS CREEPS OVER YOU!

FINALLY, IN AN INCOHERENT STUPOR, YOU SMASH THE GLASS ON THE FLOOR AND STAGGER OUT INTO THE NIGHT!

YOUR BRAIN IS A LIMP AND USELESS THING...ONLY *HABIT* GUIDES YOUR STUMBLING FEET TO THE DECREPIT HOVEL YOU CALL YOUR HOME!

AND ONLY HABIT GETS YOU UP THE THREE FLIGHTS OF DARK, CREAKY STAIRS...

AND THROWS YOU ON THE BED IN A SHALLOW STUPOR...

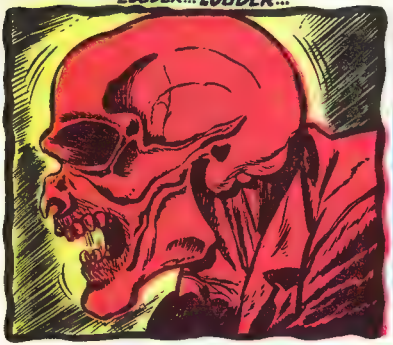
AND THEN THE NIGHTMARE STARTS! IT'S THE SAME ONE...*ALWAYS* THE SAME ONE! YOU'RE RACING THRU A GRAVEYARD WITH TERROR AT YOUR HEELS!

CLOSE AT YOUR BACK...GAINING WITH EVERY STEP IS THE CORPSE OF TOM BRITTON...THE MAN YOU MURDERED!

FINALLY, AT THE BASE OF BRITTON'S OWN TOMBSTONE, YOU STUMBLE...FALL...AND...STRIKE YOUR HEAD!

WHEN YOU COME TO AGAIN, THE LIVING CORPSE IS STANDING OVER YOU...WITH A GRIN WHICH SPLITS HIS FACE... AND A BOTTLE OF ACID IN HIS HAND!

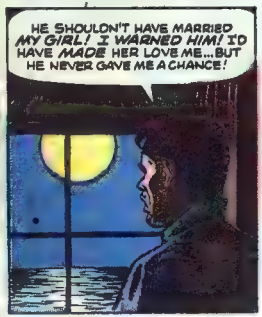
THE ACID HITS YOUR FACE...YOU SCREAM...*LOUDER*... *LOUDER*... *LOUDER*...



YOU WAKE UP BATHED IN YOUR OWN SWEAT...THE NIGHTMARE IS OVER AGAIN...UNTIL THE NEXT TIME YOU GO TO SLEEP!

YOU LOOK DOWN AT YOUR HANDS...BRAWNY... HUGE *KILLER'S* HANDS!

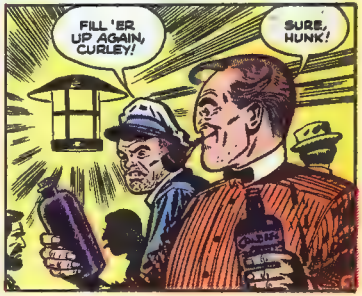
YOU SEEM TO FEEL HIS NECK BETWEEN YOUR HANDS AGAIN! YOU DROP YOUR HANDS AS IF THEY'RE SUDDENLY RED-HOT!

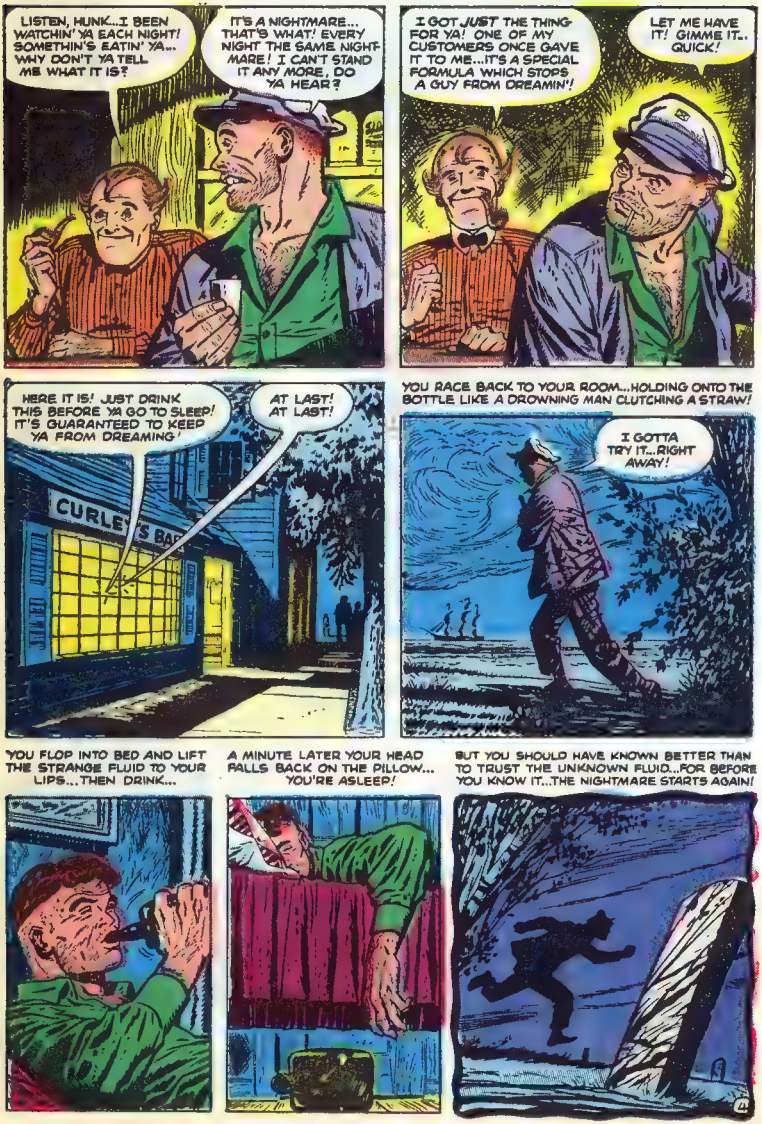


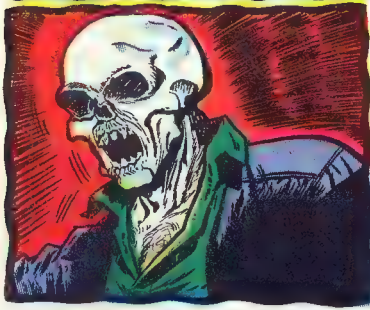
THE REST OF THE EVENING YOU TOSS AND TURN! YOU'RE AFRAID TO SLEEP...AFRAID OF THE NIGHTMARE AGAIN! THEN FINALLY DAWN BREAKS...

YOU WALK THE STREETS AS YOU'VE DONE SO MANY DAYS BEFORE...DREADING THE PASSING OF DAY... FEARING THE COMING OF NIGHT!

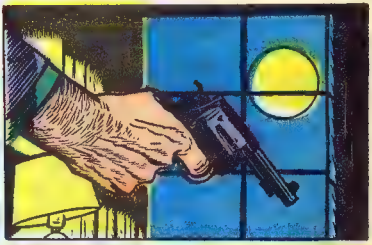
AND WHEN EVENING FINALLY COMES, YOU'RE BACK AT CURLEY'S BAR TRYING TO LOSE YOUR MEMORIES... TRYING TO DEADEN YOUR CONSCIENCE...TRYING TO PRETEND THAT THE NIGHTMARE WON'T COME AGAIN TONIGHT!




LISTEN, HUNK...I BEEN WATCHIN' YA EACH NIGHT! SOMETHIN'S EATIN' YA... WHY DON'T YA TELL ME WHAT IT IS?
IT'S A NIGHTMARE... THAT'S WHAT! EVERY NIGHT THE SAME NIGHTMARE! I CAN'T STAND IT ANY MORE, DO YA HEAR?
I GOT JUST THE THING FOR YA! ONE OF MY CUSTOMERS ONCE GAVE IT TO ME...IT'S A SPECIAL FORMULA WHICH STOPS A GUY FROM DREAMIN'!
LET ME HAVE IT! GIMME IT.. QUICK!
HERE IT IS! JUST DRINK THIS BEFORE YA GO TO SLEEP! IT'S GUARANTEED TO KEEP YA FROM DREAMING!
AT LAST! AT LAST!
CURLEY'S BAR
YOU RACE BACK TO YOUR ROOM...HOLDING ONTO THE BOTTLE LIKE A DROWNING MAN CLUTCHING A STRAW!
I GOTTA TRY IT...RIGHT AWAY!
YOU FLOP INTO BED AND LIFT THE STRANGE FLUID TO YOUR LIPS...THEN DRINK...
A MINUTE LATER YOUR HEAD FALLS BACK ON THE PILLOW... YOU'RE ASLEEP!
BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO TRUST THE UNKNOWN FLUID...FOR BEFORE YOU KNOW IT...THE NIGHTMARE STARTS AGAIN!



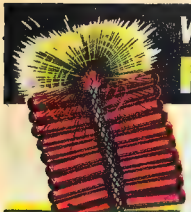
YOU WAKE UP, BATHED IN YOUR OWN SWEAT! THE NIGHTMARE IS OVER AGAIN...BUT YOU'VE GOT THE URGE TO KILL...YOU REACH FOR THE REVOLVER UNDER YOUR PILLOW...



A SCANT THREE MINUTES LATER YOU'RE BACK IN CURLEY'S BAR...HATE SEETHING INSIDE OF YOU LIKE A LIVING THING...

EDITOR'S NOTE: MANY OF YOU READERS HAVE ASKED FOR A "LETTERS PAGE" IN MENACE! THE REASON WE DON'T HAVE ONE IS BECAUSE WE'D RATHER DEVOTE THAT EXTRA PAGE TO OUR STORIES... BUT PLEASE REMEMBER... EVERY LETTER YOU SEND IS READ BY STAN LEE PERSONALLY, AND GREATLY APPRECIATED BY THE ENTIRE MENACE STAFF!

WHY BUY STOCK ASSORTMENTS?
PICK OUT YOUR OWN
FIREWORKS



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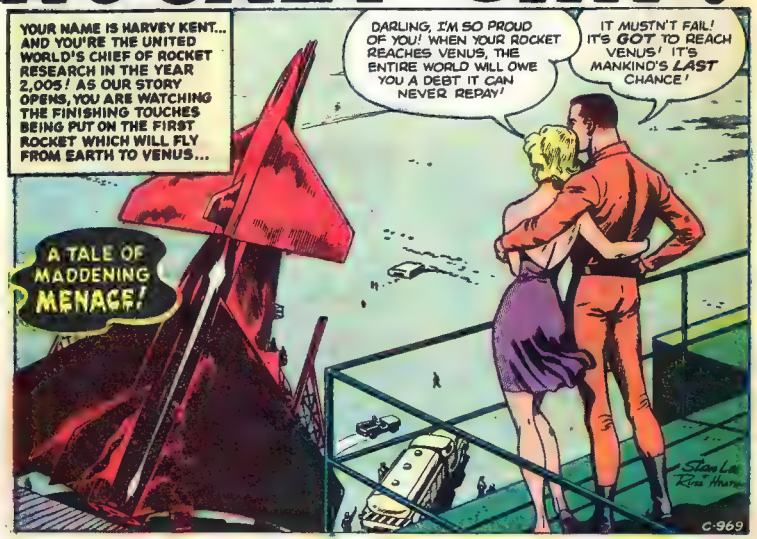
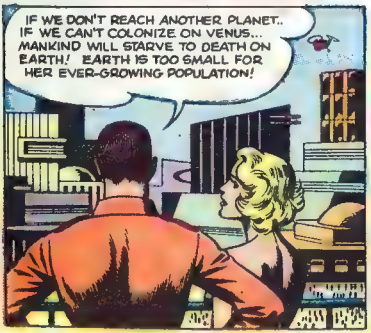
AN ISSUE OF "MENACE" WITHOUT A SCIENCE FICTION YARN IS LIKE HAM WITHOUT EGGS! SO HARK TO THIS TALE OF MEN AGAINST SPACE... AND IF ANY OF YOU GET SEA-SICK FROM THE RIDE, DON'T WORRY...BECAUSE THE *BIGGEST* SHOCK WILL HIT YOU WHEN YOU *LAND!*

ROCKET SHIP!


YOUR NAME IS HARVEY KENT... AND YOU'RE THE UNITED WORLD'S CHIEF OF ROCKET RESEARCH IN THE YEAR 2,005! AS OUR STORY OPENS, YOU ARE WATCHING THE FINISHING TOUCHES BEING PUT ON THE FIRST ROCKET WHICH WILL FLY FROM EARTH TO VENUS...
A TALE OF MADDENING MENACE!
DARLING, I'M SO PROUD OF YOU! WHEN YOUR ROCKET REACHES VENUS, THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL OWE YOU A DEBT IT CAN NEVER REPAY!
IT MUSTN'T FAIL! IT'S *GOT* TO REACH VENUS! IT'S MANKIND'S *LAST* CHANCE!
Stan Lee Russ Heath
C-969

YOU TURN FROM THE SITE AND LOOK TOWARD THE CITY...THE TEEMING, OVERCROWDED CITY...TYPICAL OF ALL THE OVERPOPULATED CITIES ON EARTH!

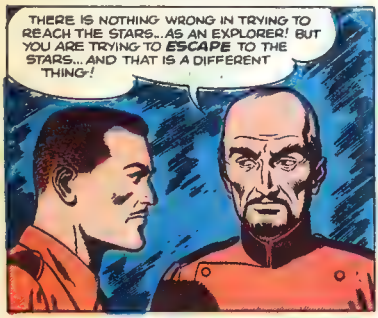

IF WE DON'T REACH ANOTHER PLANET.. IF WE CAN'T COLONIZE ON VENUS... MANKIND WILL STARVE TO DEATH ON EARTH! EARTH IS TOO SMALL FOR HER EVER-GROWING POPULATION!

YOU LOOK UP AT THE SKY.. KNOWING THAT ONLY IN THE HEAVENS CAN MANKIND FIND THE SOLUTION TO HER PROBLEM... KNOWING THAT *YOUR* ROCKET SHIP IS MANKIND'S *LAST CHANCE* TO REACH THOSE HEAVENS!

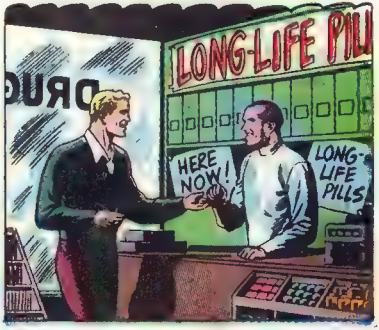
THEN YOU FEEL A HAND ON YOUR SHOULDER...YOU TURN...IT'S PROFESSOR VONMANN, THE ONE MAN IN THE WORLD WHO OPPOSES YOUR PLAN...

PROFESSOR VONMANN... FOR YEARS YOU'VE ATTACKED MY HUSBAND'S PLAN TO TAKE MANKIND FROM EARTH TO VENUS! WHY DO YOU THINK HE'S WRONG?

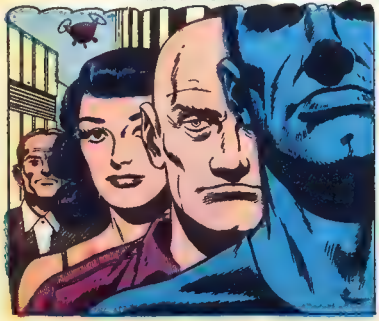
YOU LISTEN AS THE PROFESSOR SPEAKS...YOU'VE HEARD HIS ARGUMENTS A THOUSAND TIMES BEFORE... FOOLISH, EMPTY ARGUMENTS...THE REASONING OF AN OLD AND SENILE BRAIN...


THERE IS NOTHING WRONG IN TRYING TO REACH THE STARS...AS AN EXPLORER! BUT YOU ARE TRYING TO ESCAPE TO THE STARS... AND THAT IS A DIFFERENT THING!

"REMEMBER YEARS AGO WHEN THE 'LONG-LIFE PILLS' WERE INVENTED? IN 1964, WASN'T IT? THAT WAS WHEN PEOPLE BEGAN TO LIVE TO BE 200 YEARS OLD!"



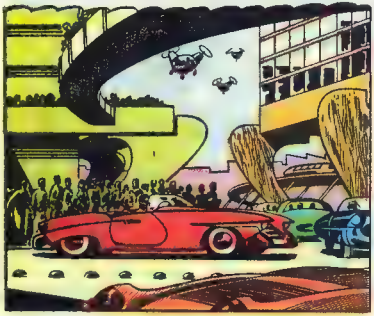
"THE POPULATION DOUBLED AND TRIPLED... PEOPLE WERE HEALTHIER, LIVED LONGER, ATE MORE! OUR FOOD SUPPLIES RAN OUT! WORLD-WIDE FOOD-RATIONING BEGAN"



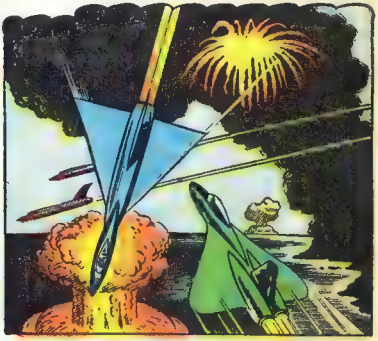
"RIOTS SPREAD ALL OVER EARTH..."

"PEOPLE GREW WEAK WITH HUNGER...BUT THEY COULDN'T EVEN FIND RELIEF IN DEATH BECAUSE OF THE LONG-LIFE PILLS!"

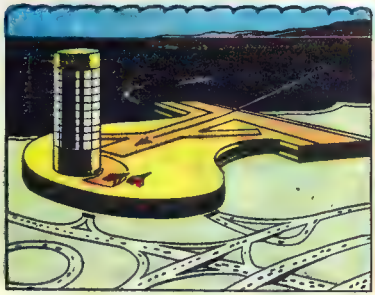
"THEN A NEW MENACE HIT US! EARTH BECAME TOO SMALL...TOO CROWDED! THERE WERE TOO MANY PEOPLE AND NOT ENOUGH HOMES...NOT ENOUGH CITIES OR TOWNS TO ACCOMODATE THEM!"

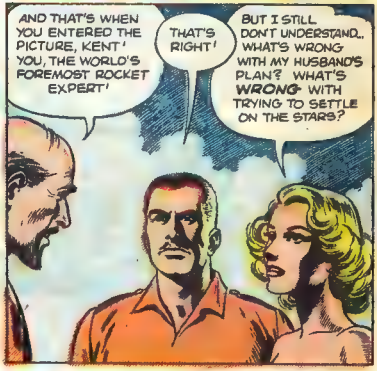


"AFTER YEARS OF PEACE, NEW WARS BROKE OUT...EACH NATION WANTING TO SEIZE ITS NEIGHBOR'S LAND!"



"FINALLY, ALL NATIONS REALIZED THAT THE PROBLEM WAS TOO BIG FOR ANY ONE OF THEM ALONE, AND THE 'UNITED WORLD GOVERNMENT' WAS BORN! WARS STOPPED AND ORDER WAS REESTABLISHED...BUT EARTH WAS **STILL** TOO OVERCROWDED!"




AND THAT'S WHEN YOU ENTERED THE PICTURE, KENT! YOU, THE WORLD'S FOREMOST ROCKET EXPERT!
THAT'S RIGHT!
BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND.. WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY HUSBAND'S PLAN? WHAT'S **WRONG** WITH TRYING TO SETTLE ON THE STARS?

YOU WINCE AS YOU LISTEN TO THE PROFESSOR! IT'S A PITY THAT SUCH A ONCE-GREAT BRAIN SHOULD HAVE BECOME SO FEEBLE AND FOOLISH WITH OLD AGE!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE..

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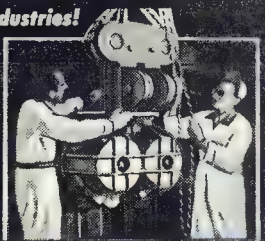

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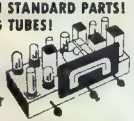

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"ALL THAT MONEY COULD HAVE TRANSFORMED OUR DESERTS INTO FERTILE FARMLAND...IT COULD HAVE FURNISHED FOOD AND LAND FOR MILLIONS OF HOMELESS, STARVING PEOPLE...IT COULD HAVE MADE EARTH THE GREATEST PLANET IN THE GALAXY! BUT NOW IT'S ALL GONE...THE MONEY IS SPENT...WE'VE LOST OUR CHANCE!"

YOU CAN'T STOP TO LISTEN TO THAT DRIVEL ANY LONGER...YOU'VE TOO MUCH WORK TO DO...IT'S ALMOST TIME TO LAUNCH YOUR ROCKET!

YOU THROW YOURSELF INTO YOUR WORK WITH THE ZEAL OF A FANATIC! THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF LAST-MINUTE DETAILS TO BE CHECKED AND DOUBLE-CHECKED!

THERE ARE MANY MANY VOLUNTEER CREW-MEMBERS TO BE INTERVIEWED AND TESTED...

AND COUNTLESS ASTRONOMICAL CALCULATIONS TO BE COMPUTED AND ANALYZED...

AND FINALLY...THE GREAT DAY ARRIVES! YOU AND YOUR WIFE ARE THE LAST TWO TO ENTER THE ROCKET SHIP! YOU PAUSE... TURN... AND SPEAK TO THE ASSEMBLED CROWD!

MY FELLOW EARTH CITIZENS! THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST OF MANY SUCH JOURNEYS! AFTER I HAVE PROVED VENUS SUITABLE FOR HUMAN HABITATION...THOUSANDS OF SHIPS WILL BRING MILLIONS OF YOU FOLKS TO VENUS... TO A NEWER, BETTER LIFE!

THE CHEERS OF THE CROWD ARE STILL RINGING IN YOUR EARS AS YOU GIVE THE COMMAND...

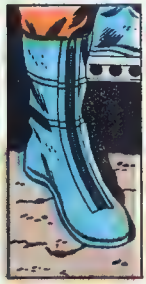
HOW CAN YOU DESCRIBE YOUR FEELINGS...YOUR EMOTIONS? YOU'RE IN SPACE AT LAST...REACHING FOR THE STARS...HOLDING DESTINY IN YOUR HANDS...MAN'S GREAT DREAM IS COMING TRUE...THE ROCKET SHIP HAS COME OF AGE!

YOU LOOK AT THE PEOPLE BESIDE YOU... STUDY THEIR TAUT, TENSE, ECSTATIC FACES...THE FACES OF HUMANS WHO ARE A STONE'S THROW FROM ETERNITY...

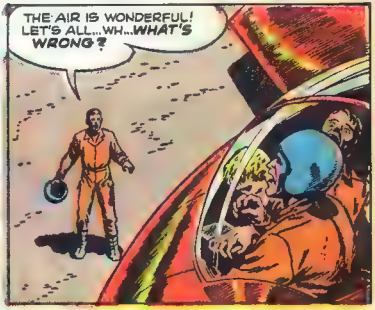
THE DAYS TURN TO WEEKS AND THE WEEKS TO MONTHS UNTIL...

YOU HOLD YOUR BREATH AS THE SHIP LANDS...SMOOTHLY... EASILY...

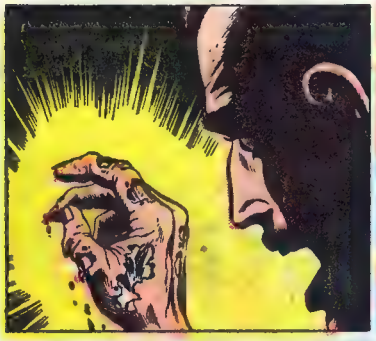
YOU ARE GIVEN THE HONOR OF BEING THE FIRST HUMAN TO STEP OUT ONTO VENUSIAN SOIL!



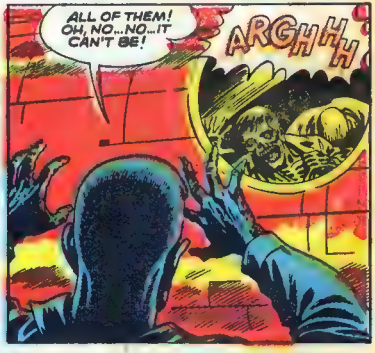
BUT AS YOU TURN TO LOOK BACK AT YOUR FELLOW TRAVELERS...YOU SEE EXPRESSIONS OF SHEER HORROR ON THEIR FACES...

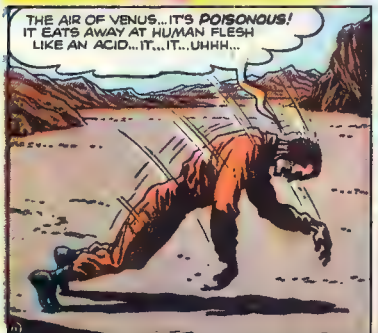


YOU REACH OUT TO LIGHT A CIGARETTE...AND YOUR STARTLED EYES FALL ON YOUR HANDS...

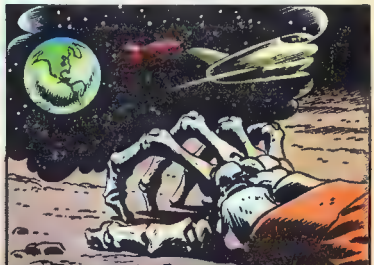


WHILE THRU THE WINDOW OF THE SHIP, YOU SEE...





WITH YOUR DYING BREATH YOU PICTURE THE OTHER ROCKET SHIPS WHICH WILL FOLLOW...AT LEAST YOU HAVEN'T FAILED COMPLETELY...YOU'VE SOLVED THE POPULATION PROBLEM OF EARTH...YOU'VE SOLVED IT FOR GOOD!



DON'T GO 'WAY! YOU AIN'T SEEN NUTHIN' YET! WE JUST THOUGHT OF ONE TYPE OF STORY WE HAVEN'T FEATURED IN "MENACE"...YOU GUESSED IT...A GHOST STORY! SO, IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE WATCH FOR "THE GRAYMOOR GHOST"... YOU'LL NEVER FORGET IT! AND KEEP THOSE LETTERS COMING TO STAN LEE, EDITOR; MENACE; 270 PARK AVE.; N.Y. THE MORE LETTERS HE READS, THE MORE IDEAS HE GETS...AND HE CAN SURE USE IDEAS!

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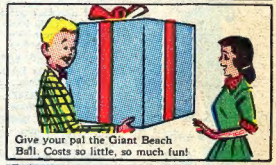

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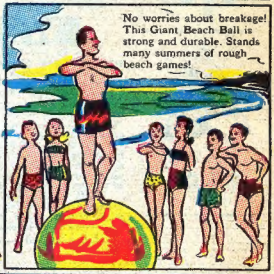

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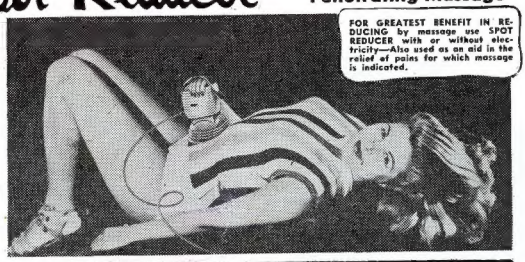

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